

INTRODUCTION

Demand for more and better public services has increased greatly in the past few years. Parallel to the rise in living standards and general affluence has been the elevation of the level of expectation of the average citizen. Within urban areas, he wants streets that are paved, good schools for his children, adequate police and fire protection, recreation areas for the whole family, clean pure water, sanitary sewage disposal, efficient garbage disposal, and adequate drainage systems.

Community facilities provide these services for all citizens. These facilities are located on public property and are operated by personnel hired by the community. Because the expected level of service is higher all the time, and the cost of providing facilities and services continues to rise, haphazard development cannot be tolerated. Public funds have been wasted because the people had too little appreciation of the importance of placing facilities in the proper location and develop them so they can provide a continuing adequate level of service.

Community facilities require the heaviest investments in public funds that the municipality will make. Therefore, it is important that these investments should be carefully planned, to ensure that maximum benefit is derived.

The advantages of planning in advance for future improvements are:

1. There is time to think logically about each improvement, and compute costs and benefits of alternatives. In addition, the relationship of these alternatives to the comprehensive community plan can be determined.
2. There is an opportunity to determine when the facility is needed, where it can best be located, and how large it must be to provide the desirable level of service not only now but in the future.
3. When they are recognized, needed improvements and facilities can be ranked according to urgency of need and overall value. Then they can be programmed in a capital budget designed to fit within the financial capacity of the town.
4. Once the community facilities plan is complete, real economies can be realized by acquiring selected sites for future facilities before prices rise.